

III. REMARKS

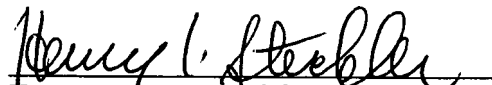
Section headings have been added to the specification and the abstract amended to conform to U.S. requirements. Thus they are no longer objectionable.

Claims 67, 68 and 69 respectively correspond to allowable claims 20, 44 and 48 rewritten in independent form and are therefore allowable. The remaining claims either depend from these claims or have been cancelled.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 is enclosed for a 3 month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dec. 21, 2004
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 12/21/04

Signature: *Joni W. Puma*
Person Making Deposit